

chairman of Maryland's Legislative Black Caucus, the youngest person ever to attain that position.

As vice chairman of the House Constitutional and Administrative Law Committee and as vice chairman of the Economic Matters Committee, he has acquired a wealth of expertise and experience that he will now bring to bear on the considerable problems facing this Nation. Most recently, he became Speaker Pro Tem of the House of Delegates, the second highest position of leadership in that body.

I am delighted to join my other colleagues in welcoming my neighbor to the House of Representatives. I am sure he will follow in the proud tradition of his district and enjoy a long and distinguished career here in the people's House.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield to a gentleman who served with ELIJAH in the House of Delegates and then was his colleague as a member of the Maryland State senate, will now be again his colleague here in the House of the people, the distinguished Representative from the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland, Mr. ALBERT WYNN.

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague for yielding.

In 1983 I was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. As I looked around the orientation, I noticed another young man who really impressed me. That man stands before you today.

So I can tell you from personal experience, having stood shoulder-to-shoulder with ELIJAH CUMMINGS, that he is a true worker for people. I do not have to tell you a lot. Let me simply say that I have watched this man and worked with this man. He has worked for economic development, but he has never forgotten the needs of the downtrodden or the less fortunate. He brings to this House tremendous compassion.

All Members need to know about ELIJAH CUMMINGS is that he is a man of tremendous sincerity, commitment, compassion, and faith in God. He will do a wonderful job for the people of the Seventh Congressional District. He will do a wonderful job for the people of this country. I am looking forward to working with him. Congratulations and welcome, ELIJAH.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the last person before I introduce Mr. CUMMINGS or yield to Mr. CUMMINGS is the dean of the Republican delegation. We are one delegation, but the dean of our Republicans, the distinguished gentlewoman from Montgomery County who herself served with Mr. CUMMINGS, CONNIE MORELLA.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for giving me the opportunity to congratulate not only Congressman CUMMINGS but all of us in the 104th Congress for having him added to our numbers. He will speak in a very strong voice, with compassion, with justice, with knowledge.

Indeed, it has been mentioned that he has been handed quite a legacy. Our very good friends who have represented

that district so well who are here today: Kweisi Mfume, whom I consider one of my dearest friends, who was elected with me and BEN CARDIN to the historic 100th Congress; BARBARA MIKULSKI, our Senator who also represented that district. Senator SARBANES, did you represent that district? You did in your heart, that is for sure.

But we all reflect the kind of fine work that has been done there, and I did have the grand opportunity to serve for 4 years with Congressman CUMMINGS in the House of Delegates. Very proud of your background, the temperament, the compassion, and I particularly like the fact that here is a man who is going to work for the American people, both sides of the aisle. He is not predisposed to any one specific myopic kind of philosophy. He wants to work for the American people, for the people of Maryland. I salute him and I congratulate him.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. I might observe that our senior Senator has always served every district in our State.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply honored to introduce to you a very fine human being who we will be privileged to serve with and walk with, ELIJAH CUMMINGS.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and Members, to the Maryland congressional delegation, to two of my mentors, both of whom I love. Their spirit is a part of my spirit. Their hopes and dreams are part of my hopes and dreams.

To Kweisi Mfume and Parren J. Mitchell, I just want you to know that I love you, and I thank you for all that you have done for the city of Baltimore, the State of Maryland, the Nation, and the world. I appreciate you.

To my family and friends and to the members of the Maryland Legislature who are up there, only God could create this path, only God. Only God could create a path where the son of two sharecroppers from Manning, SC could rise to represent the people of the Seventh Congressional District in the Congress of the United States of America. Only God, and so I must first thank God for this opportunity.

I also thank Him for giving me the strength, the humility, and the courage to walk the path that He has given me. So often we in public life forget that we are very fortunate to come upon this Earth and have an opportunity to serve. So often we forget, because we get so caught up in our battles and our struggles, that so many people wish they could have the problems we have.

So I am just a happy, happy man. I am also very happy, they tell me it is unusual for Members of the other body—I have got to get this language right—to come over, but my two Senators, I want to thank you for being here and for all that you have done. It is not just that they are here today, but they have been walking with me for a long time, and I appreciate you.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a diverse district, a very diverse district. We have people who have a lot of problems. We have people who have very nice homes. We have people who are struggling just trying to make it. It honors me tremendously to know that they would send me here to represent them.

I have often said on the floor of the Maryland House of Delegates that our world would be a much better world and a much better place if we would only concentrate on the things we have in common instead of concentrating on our differences. It is easy to find differences, very easy. We need to take more time to find common ground.

So my mission is one that comes out of a vision that was created long, long ago. It is a mission and a vision to empower people, to make people realize that the power is within them, that they, too, can do the things that they want to do. So I am about that mission. I am looking forward to joining with all of you as we travel this road I often call journey, which I define as life.

There is a poem that Parren Mitchell said many, many years ago, that I say sometimes 20 times a day, and it is a very simple poem but it is one that I live by. It says: "I only have a minute, 60 seconds in it, forced upon me, I did not choose it, but I know that I must use it, give account if I abuse it, suffer if I lose it, only a tiny little minute, but eternity is in it."

So I join you as we move forward to uplift not only the Nation but the world. May God bless you all and may God bless America.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) laid before the House the following resignation as a Member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 22, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker of the House,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign my position on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 414) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION 414

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and that they are hereby, elected to